

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:PJDEVOS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEGUCIGALPA 2639 ACTION STATE INFO BOGOTA
BRASILIA GUATEMAL GUAYAQUIL MANAGUA PACJMA QUITO SAN JOSE JUNE 25, 19
74

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2639

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS:ETRD, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: BANANAS: PRELIMINARY ACCORD REACHED BETWEEN STANDARD
FRUIT AND ITS UNION

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2068, TEGUCIGALPA 2079, AND STATE 095839

1. MINISTER OF LABOR CALLED EMBASSY AFTERNOON JUNE 24, HE
EXPRESSED DEEPEST APPRECIATION EMBASSY'S ROLE IN ESTABLISHING
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MINISTRY AND COMPANY. HE EXPLAINED THAT
PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN COMPANY AND
UNION ON ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES. FINAL ACCORD BEING DRAFTED
AND SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY THIS WEEKEND. MINISTER FONSECA CONDUCTED
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS INDIVIDUALLY WITH UNION, SUTRAFSCO, AND
STANDARD FRUIT. CULMINATION OF 8 MONTHS NEGOTIATION IS THREE-YEAR
CONTRACT WITH SUZKTANTIAL ECONOMIC GAINS FOR WORKERS AND END
TO STRIKE REAT WHICH HAS PLAGUED COMPANY.

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WM WAGE INCREASES RANGE FROM 11 TO 16 PERCENT, EXCLUSIVE OF
FRINGE BENEFITS AND RESOLUTION OF OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
OUTSTANDING. TOTAL PACKAGE INCLUDES RETROACTIVE PAYMENT FOR
PAST FOUR MONTHS AND SETTLEMENT OF STATUS PART-TIME DOCK WORKERS
WHO NOW BECOME REGULAR EMPLOYEES. DHAHOM COMMENT: SETTLEMENT
SEEMS ASSURED, EXCEPTING UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS. SETTLEMENT
WILL PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT STANDARD'S IMAGE IN SURCHARGE
DISCUSSIONS. UNQUOTE SISCO

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